



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/786
16 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 129

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/571 and Add.1) on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.
2. In the introduction to his main report (A/49/571, paras. 1-11), the Secretary-General summarized developments since the General Assembly, by its resolution 48/247 B of 29 July 1994, had authorized him to enter into commitments for the continued maintenance of UNOMIL in an additional amount of \$9,922,700 gross (\$9,449,300 net) for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994.
3. In his report to the Security Council of 26 August 1994 (S/1994/1006), the Secretary-General informed the Council, *inter alia*, that the situation in Liberia had further seriously deteriorated, the disarmament process had virtually halted and no clear date had been set for elections. As a result, UNOMIL had reduced its deployment in Liberia from 29 to 21 teams, and 30 military observers had been reassigned to Rwanda.
4. In his subsequent report (S/1994/1167) of 14 October 1994, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, as a result of the breakdown in the cease-fire, UNOMIL was unable, at that time, to carry out many of its mandated activities. Consequently, all UNOMIL team sites had been evacuated except for those in the Monrovia area. In addition, it had also been decided to reduce the personnel of UNOMIL from its authorized strength of 368 to approximately 90 military observers, with a commensurate reduction in the civilian staff.



5. The Secretary-General also informed the Security Council that he had decided to dispatch a high-level mission to the region to consult with the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) about the respective roles and responsibilities of the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) and UNOMIL in Liberia, taking recent developments into account. That review would seek to determine how best the international community could continue to assist Liberia in bringing about a cessation of hostilities. In order to allow the high-level mission time to conduct its work and present its conclusions, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council extend the mandate of UNOMIL, which was to expire on 22 October 1994, for a period of two months.

6. By its resolution 950 (1994) of 21 October 1994, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of UNOMIL from 23 October 1994 to 13 January 1995, and recognized that circumstances on the ground had warranted the reduction in the strength of UNOMIL. The Council also considered that any decision to return UNOMIL to its authorized level would depend upon consideration by the Council of a further report from the Secretary-General reflecting a real improvement in the situation on the ground, in particular the security situation.

7. In his report (A/49/571), the Secretary-General also provides information on, *inter alia*, humanitarian assistance, disarmament and demobilization, voluntary contributions, trust funds, the status of assessed contributions, cost estimates for the period from 23 October 1994 to 22 April 1995 and observations and comments on previous recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

8. In the addendum to his report (A/49/571/Add.1) the Secretary-General provides the financial performance report for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994.

9. In paragraph 8 of the addendum, the Secretary-General revises paragraph 31 of the main report and summarizes the actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in connection with the financing of UNOMIL.

10. With regard to the status of assessed contributions, the Advisory Committee notes in paragraph 20 of the main report that assessments totalling \$39,801,100 were apportioned among Member States for the financing of UNOMIL for the period from 22 September 1993 to 22 October 1994, while payments received for the same period amounted to \$34,048,500, resulting in outstanding assessments of \$5.7 million as at 30 September 1994. The Advisory Committee was informed that the same amount was outstanding as at 13 December 1994. The Committee was also informed that, in view of continuing cash problems as a result of unpaid assessments, UNOMIL has borrowed an amount of \$2 million from the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund. In paragraph 16 of its report (A/49/664), the Advisory Committee made reference to loans from the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund to ongoing peace-keeping operations and stated that the purposes of the Fund as set out in General Assembly resolution 47/217 of 23 December 1992 had not been achieved.

Performance report for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994

11. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the addendum, the total estimated expenditure for the period amounted to \$17,548,300 gross (\$16,887,800 net),

/...

resulting in a projected unencumbered balance of \$5,451,700 gross (\$5,260,200 net). Annexes I and II to the addendum provide by budget-line item the cost estimates and supplementary information.

12. In annex I to the addendum, the unencumbered balance of \$5,260,200 net has been identified under the heading of "savings", offset by overruns in expenditure.

13. The savings are related to Mission subsistence allowance for military observers (\$380,900) attributable to early repatriation, salaries for international and local staff (\$588,400) attributable to lower number on board, common staff costs (\$220,400), United Nations Volunteers (\$632,400) attributable to late deployment, civilian electoral observers (\$828,000) (no expenditure incurred under this heading), commercial communications (\$494,800) attributable to delay in installing the satellite communication equipment, and assistance for disarmament and demobilization (\$2,734,300), attributable principally to the renewed fighting which halted the demobilization and disarmament process.

14. The overruns in expenditure as indicated in annex I to the addendum are mainly from travel of military observers (\$977,900), hire/charter costs of helicopter (\$90,700) and spare parts and supplies for communications equipment (\$122,900). The reasons for the over-expenditure are given in annex II to the addendum.

15. In paragraph 8 (a) of the addendum, the Secretary-General requests the General Assembly to appropriate the amount of \$17,548,300 gross (\$16,887,800 net) for the maintenance of UNOMIL for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994. This amount is derived from the decisions of the General Assembly which are detailed below.

16. By its resolution 48/247 A of 5 April 1994, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed \$4,359,100 gross (\$4,232,900 net) for the maintenance of UNOMIL for three months for the period beyond 21 April 1994. On the basis of the report of the Advisory Committee of 29 June 1994 (A/48/960), the Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/247 B of 21 July 1994, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Mission in an additional amount of \$9,922,700 gross (\$9,449,300 net) for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994.

17. As indicated in paragraph 8 (b) of the addendum to the Secretary-General's report, the total amount of \$17,548,300 gross (\$16,887,800 net) is assessed for the entire period from 22 April to 22 October 1994. Out of this amount, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/247 A, authorized an assessment of \$7,520,900 gross (\$7,335,700 net) among Member States, leaving a balance of \$10,027,400. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate \$17,548,300 gross (\$16,887,800 net) and assess \$10,027,400 gross (\$9,552,100 net).

Cost estimates for the period from 23 October 1994 to 22 April 1995

18. As reflected in paragraph 22 of his main report (A/49/571), the Secretary-General estimates the cost of UNOMIL for the six-month period from 23 October 1994 to 22 April 1995 at \$10,968,600 gross (\$10,472,400 net) or \$1,828,100 gross (\$1,745,400 net) per month. Annexes I and II to the report provide a summary of the cost estimates and supplementary information.

19. By a letter dated 11 November 1994, the Advisory Committee, while concurring in the Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 gross per month for a two-month period from 23 October to 22 December 1994, requested a review of costs of air operations, supplies and services, and communications with a view to achieving economies. The Committee was also of the opinion that, in the light of the recent developments in the Mission area, the need for consultants had not been established.

20. During its current consideration of the question of financing of UNOMIL, the Advisory Committee was informed that as a result of the Committee's request for review, the amount of \$10,968,600 gross has been revised downward by \$1,405,600, as indicated in paragraphs 22 to 26 below.

21. The Advisory Committee notes in annex III, section C, and annex IV to the main report that, for the period from 16 December 1994 to 22 April 1995, the Secretary-General proposes to deploy 90 military observers, 44 international civilian staff and 70 local staff. In this connection, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to ensure that this deployment is in accordance with the operational requirements of the Mission.

22. In section II, part 5, of annex II to the main report, the Secretary-General proposes an expenditure of \$342,900 for transportation operations. However, the Advisory Committee was informed that owing to a reduction in the number of vehicles from 150 to 105, this estimate has been revised downwards by \$131,800 in respect of spare parts (\$84,900), petrol and oil (\$36,600) and vehicle insurance (\$10,300). Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this estimate be reduced by \$131,800.

23. In section II, part 6, provision is made for \$2,255,600 under air operations. However, the Advisory Committee was informed that these estimates have been reduced by a net total of \$621,200 after taking into account an increase of \$25,000 for positioning costs. These reductions relate to charter costs (\$451,800), aviation fuel (\$121,100) and liability insurance (\$73,300). The Committee was informed that, as a result of reductions in the operation of the Mission, the Bell utility aircraft contract has been terminated with effect from 8 December 1994. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that this estimate be reduced by \$621,200.

24. The Secretary-General requests \$810,000 under communications (sect. II, part 8). The Advisory Committee was informed that this amount has been revised downward by \$580,000 under user charges for satellite communications (\$640,000), based on a monthly cost of \$5,000 instead of \$110,000, and for four months instead of six months, partially offset by an increase of \$60,000 under telex

/...

and telephone charges for six months at \$30,000 per month instead of \$20,000. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this estimate be reduced by \$580,000.

25. The Advisory Committee notes that \$333,000 is being proposed under supplies and services (part 10). However, the Committee was informed that this amount has been revised downward by \$32,400 in respect of medical treatment and services (\$6,000), miscellaneous other services (\$6,000), stationery and office supplies (\$6,000), medical supplies (\$6,000), uniform items, flags and decals (\$2,400) and quartermaster and general store (\$6,000). Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this estimate be reduced by \$32,400.

26. Provision is made for \$55,800 under assistance for disarmament and demobilization (part 15). The Committee was informed that this estimate has been revised downward by \$41,400 through the elimination of the post of International Coordinator. However, the salary of the local consultant was increased to \$2,600 per month for six months (\$15,600) instead of \$2,400 per month for six months (\$14,400). Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this estimate be reduced by \$40,200.

27. The Advisory Committee takes note in annex VI to the main report of the Secretary-General of the current inventory of transport equipment, communications equipment, office equipment and data-processing equipment. The Committee also notes that some of this equipment has been lost or confiscated. In this connection, the Committee trusts that steps are being taken to ensure secure custody of the remaining equipment.

28. As indicated in paragraph 8 (d) of the addendum to his report, the Secretary-General requests the appropriation of the amount of \$4,935,870 gross (\$4,712,580 net), or \$1,828,100 gross (\$1,745,400 net) per month, for the maintenance of UNOMIL for the period from 23 October 1994 to 13 January 1995. In view of the Committee's observations and its recommendations in paragraphs 22 to 26 above (based upon revised information received from representatives of the Secretary-General), the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate \$4,303,260 gross (\$4,079,970 net) for the period from 23 October 1994 to 13 January 1995.

29. With regard to the period after 13 January 1995, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate and assess the amount of \$1,593,800 gross (\$1,511,100 net) per month, subject to the decision to be taken by the Security Council on the renewal of UNOMIL.
